

Minutes

Asheville City Council - Public Safety Committee Wednesday, June 24 8:30am – 9:30am Conference Room 209 ~ Second Floor City Hall

Present: **Council Members:** Vice Mayor Jan Davis, Chair, Mayor Terry Bellamy, Councilman Brownie Newman, Councilman Carl Mumpower
 Staff: Assistant City Manager Jeff Richardson, Chief William Hogan, Interim Chief Scott Burnette, Assistant Chief Gary Cornett, Interim Assistant Chief McFee, Chief Knisley, Jonathan Feldman, Curt Euler, Jessica Dunlap

Vice Mayor Jan Davis opened the meeting at 8:35am and requested that in the interest of time, Dr. Mumpower be permitted to present first. Because the other Committee members were not there at that time, Vice Mayor Davis requested to postpone approval of the May Committee Minutes*.

I. Drug and Prostitution Interdiction - Concerns and Plans Going Forward - Councilman Mumpower

Councilman Mumpower proceeded with his presentation, and provided a handout to the group. He stated that he believes the efforts to curtail the open air drug market and prostitution in Asheville have failed, particularly in the South French Broad area. Councilman Mumpower continued that he would like to engage in a positive dialogue about the issue.

Vice Mayor Jan Davis thanked Councilman Mumpower for his observations.

The committee and staff continued discussion on the issue, and staff answered questions regarding recent arrests, current efforts of the police department, council actions, and state and local resources available for prosecution of certain individuals based on the structured sentencing model.

Councilman Mumpower related that he appreciated the illumination of the current struggles that the police department faces with the limited funding of the county's judicial system.

Councilman Newman stated that the police department is doing a good job to address things in their direct control, and it would be helpful if the committee or staff could create five positive recommendations to better the current system to take to lawmakers in Raleigh.

No actions were taken on this point. Dr. Mumpower agreed to send a memo.

II. Public Safety Answering Point - PSAP

Chief Hogan, Curt Euler, Jonathan Feldman, and Jeff Richardson gave an update via powerpoint on the current PSAP agreement with the county, including how the system works, if the system were a City PSAP System (hypothetically), best practices and the ideal model, and options available according to current negotiations.

Currently, the county has rejected the city's termination clause, which states that the City would receive an estimated \$2.5 million in 911 funding should the county terminate the agreement.

Assistant City Attorney Curt Euler stated that the three options available at this time are for 1) Council to vote on current county offer 2) a counter offer with an alternate termination clause and 3) to revisit the structure of administrative oversight with a separate city/county oversight board, an independent 911 director, and a phased plan for true consolidation.

Vice Mayor Davis stated that he believed that the third option might not be viable, and that meeting with the county would be the best course of action.

Councilman Newman stated that although the ideal solution is not there yet, he appreciated all the work that the staff was doing to pull this together. He was excused from the meeting.

The Mayor requested that we get the minutes from the County meeting where they discussed the PSAP agreement, because it was the consensus of the Public Safety Committee that there might be some misunderstanding from the County regarding the agreement and staff agreed at this time to arrange a meeting with the County.

III. In-Car Video:

Chief Hogan stated that the Asheville Police Department will receive 13 new cameras for their patrol cars, which will upgrade the existing in-car video and also be good for evidentiary purposes.

IV. Public Comment/ Other Comment

- No public comment.
 - Due to time constraints, APD and AFR reports were not covered, but Chiefs Cornett and Hogan provided handouts to the Committee.
 - The committee did not approve the minutes from the May meeting*
- **Meeting Adjournment**
 - The meeting adjourned at 10:30am.
- **Next Meeting**
 - Tuesday, July 21, 2009 – 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm in the Municipal Building 4th floor training room.